**Use ‘and’ to join similar ideas; use ‘but’ to join contrasting ideas.**

Example 1

Rain began to fall. The creek rose rapidly.

Because the rain falling causes the creek to rise, we can say that these two sentences have similar ideas. This mean we turn this into a compound sentence using the conjunction ‘and’

Rain began to fall and the creek rose rapidly.

Example 2

It was a sunny day. The wind was bitterly cold.

You wouldn’t think that a sunny day would be bitterly cold so they are different even though they are talking about the same day. This means we use ‘but’ to turn it into one compound sentence.

It was a sunny day, but the wind was bitterly cold. (Notice that ‘but’ needs a comma before it.)

Use ‘and’ or ‘but’ to join these sentences.

1. The police arrived first. The ambulance came soon after.

The police arrived first and the ambulance came soon after.

1. Their front door was open. Nobody was at home.

Their front door was open but nobody was home.

1. His rope was thin. It was very strong.

His rope was thin and it was very strong.

1. Luke took out his pen. He began to make notes. (Leave out ‘He.’)

Luke took out his pen and began to make notes.